

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An air dryer mounting assembly comprising:

an air dryer including a manifold and a desiccant cartridge, wherein said manifold includes a threaded portion for connecting to said desiccant cartridge;

a bore running through said manifold; and

a fastener disposed in said bore, wherein air flow passing through the air dryer flows within the bore, external to the fastener, ~~intersects the bore~~ and communicates to an external purge volume, wherein said fastener connects said air dryer manifold to the external purge volume.

2. (Original) The air dryer mounting assembly of claim 1 further comprising a reservoir which houses said purge volume, wherein said fastener connects said air dryer to said reservoir.

3. (Original) The air dryer mounting assembly of claim 2 further comprising a means for stabilizing the air dryer and preventing rotation of the air dryer about its central axis.

4. (Original) The air dryer mounting assembly of claim 3, wherein said means for stabilizing the air dryer is a set of two or more arms protruding from said manifold and a projection extending from a surface of the reservoir, wherein said protrusion rests between said arms and prevents rotation of said air dryer when said air dryer is secured to said reservoir.

5. (Original) The air dryer mounting assembly of claim 3, wherein said means for stabilizing the air dryer is a bolt received by a threaded member.

6. (Original) The air dryer mounting assembly of claim 1, wherein said assembly is used in connection with a commercial vehicle air brake system.

7. (Original) The air dryer mounting assembly of claim 1, wherein said desiccant cartridge contains a set of threads which are used to thread the cartridge onto a set of corresponding threads located on said manifold.

8. (Original) The air dryer mounting assembly of claim 7, wherein said set of threads and said set of corresponding threads are 41 mm.

9. (Original) The air dryer mounting assembly of claim 2 wherein said reservoir further comprises:

a reservoir including a first passageway for transmitting first dried compressed air between said air dryer and the purge volume; and

a second passageway for transmitting second dried compressed air between said dryer and a downstream component, the second dried compressed air being transmitted between the air dryer and the downstream component without passing through the purge chamber.

10. (Currently amended) An air dryer comprising:

a manifold, wherein said manifold includes a bore ~~for insertion of a mounting fastener~~ and a first fastener threaded portion; and

a spin-on desiccant cartridge, which connects to said first fastener threaded portion of said manifold,

wherein said manifold bore communicates air between the air dryer and a purge volume, and wherein a second fastener inserted through said bore ~~said mounting fastener~~ connects said air dryer manifold to the purge volume.

11. (Currently amended) An air dryer for a commercial vehicle comprising:

a manifold including a first fastener;

a desiccant cartridge mounted on the first fastener ~~a threaded portion~~ of said manifold; and

a second fastener inserted through ~~disposed within~~ a bore running through said manifold; wherein said second fastener is secured to an outer surface of an enclosed reservoir.

12. (Original) The air dryer of claim 11, wherein said bore is in communication with an air flow path in said air dryer and a purge volume disposed within said reservoir.

13. (Original) The air dryer of claim 11 further comprising means for prohibiting rotation of the air dryer.

14. (Currently amended) A method of mounting an air dryer, comprising the steps of:

aligning an air dryer having a manifold coupled to a desiccant cartridge by a first fastener, with a reservoir such that one or more stabilizing mechanisms interlock to prevent rotation of the air dryer relative to the reservoir;

inserting a second fastener through the manifold and into a threaded member in the reservoir; and

tightening said fastener to said reservoir.

15. (Currently amended) A method of drying air in a compressed air system of a vehicle, comprising the steps of:

delivering a flow of air to an air dryer manifold with a desiccant bed canister attached to a threaded portion of said manifold;

passing said flow of said air through the desiccant bed, thereby drying the air;

delivering the dried air to a set of downstream components;

purging the desiccant bed with a purge flow from a purge volume to regenerate the desiccant bed; and

exhausting said purge flow after it has passed through said desiccant bed;

wherein said purge flow passes from said purge volume via a bore in said manifold in which a fastener securing said air dryer to the vehicle is ~~disposed~~ inserted through;

wherein said purge flow passes external to said fastener.

16. (Currently amended) An air dryer assembly comprising:

an air dryer including a manifold and desiccant cartridge connected to a threaded portion of said manifold; and

a means for securing said air dryer to an external air reservoir, wherein said external air reservoir includes a purge volume;

wherein means for securing said air dryer includes a means for communicating air between said air dryer and said purge volume and a fastening means disposed within said means for communicating air between said air dryer and said purge volume, said fastening means securing said air dryer to said air reservoir, wherein said air being communicated between said air dryer and said purge volume passes external to said fastening means.

17-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously presented) An air dryer mounting assembly comprising:

an air dryer including a manifold and desiccant cartridge; and

an enclosed reservoir, wherein said air dryer is coupled to the outside of said reservoir, wherein said reservoir includes a mounting bracket that is coupled to a rail of a commercial vehicle, said rail of a vehicle having a height;

wherein said mounting bracket includes a height that is less than 75 percent of said rail height.

22. (Previously presented) The air dryer mounting assembly of claim 21, wherein said mounting bracket height is less than 50 percent of said rail height.